(d) to (f) Proceeds of the cess on tea are utilised to meet expenditure towards research and development activities, labour welfare, foreign promotion of tea, administrative expenditure of the Tea Borad etc. Expenditure incurred on research and development activities out of cess proceeds during the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 has been as under:

Year	Expenditure on R & D activities from cess budget of Tea Borad (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	250.40
1994-95	443.45
1995-96	540.96

Audited figures of the expenditure for the year 1996-97 are not available.

[English]

Burn Standard Co. Ltd.

5498. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for delay in considering the feasibility Report of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. which has since been referred to BIFR;

(b) whether the Burn Standard Co. Ltd. is facing shrotage of fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to provide Burn Standard Co. Ltd. with plan non-plan fund, pending cosnideration of the feasibility Report by BIFR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Burn Standard & Company Ltd. is a multi-product Company with eleven units spread over four States. The finalisation of the revival package required thorough examination of the economic revivability of each unit and this process involved more time.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. Brun Standard Company Ltd. (BSCL) is facing problems of shortage of funds. It has seven sick Refractory units which have been incurring losses since inception. The abrupt reduction in wagon orders n 1993-94 and 1994-95 has also adversely affected its financial performance. There are strains on working capital management. However, the Companies bank account is regular and it gets advance from Railways. Government has provided counter guarantee of Rs. 49.50 crore to bank for providing working capital requirement. With improvement in wagon orders from the Railways, BSCL's financial position is improving.

Release of Plan/Non plan funds required under the revival scheme would depend on the final sanction of revival scheme.

[Translation]

Supply of Hank Yarn to Uttar Pradesh

5499. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of hank yarn made by Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the hank yarn supplied by National Handloom Development Corporation;

(b) whether the weavers of the State have to face difficulties due to irregular supply of hank yarn; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to ensure supply of hank yarn to weavers keeping in view their demand?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) The data regarding State-wise demand of hank yarn is not being maintained. The National Handloom Development Corporation supplies hank yarn under Mill Gate Price Scheme and under Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme which was in operation during 1994-95 and 1995-96. In addition, NHDC also supplies yarn as a part of their general operation. The NHDC has supplied following quantities of yarn to agencies of Uttar Pradesh during last three years:

Year	Quantity (In lakh Kgs)
1994-95	5.76
1995-96	8.96
1996-97	13.96

(b) No difficulty/grievance was reported from the State about the irregular supply/non availability of hank yarn.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Irregularities/corruption in Coal Mines

5500. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents pertaining to irregularities, corruption and theft of coal at coal mines are increasing; and

(b) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government to check them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Trade with South East Asian Coutries

5501. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas identified by his Ministry for promotion of trade and commerce with South East Asian Countries through North Eastern Region in terms of Prime Minister package announced in October, 1996;

(b) the proposd area of N.E.R. wihich will be connected through Trans Asia Railway network; and

(c) the other infrastructural facilities proposed to be created during the Ninth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Ministry of Commerce has identified agro products including spices, horticultural and floricultural produce as the thrust commodities for promotion of trade and commerce with South East Asian Countries through North-Eastern region. In this regard, detailed studies have also been commissioned through concerned trade promotion organisations including Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, etc. In order to boost border trade from North-Eastern States, traditional trade routes with Myanmar have been activated.

(b) India has urged ESCAP to connect North-Eastern Region under the proposed Trans Asia Railway link between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

(c) Ministry of Commerce provides assistance, under its Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme, to the State Governments for strategic debottlenecking and creation of export related infrastructure on receipt of specific proposals from the State Governments. Export Promotion Industrial Parks have also been sanctioned in two States. It is also proposed to create shortly cold storage facility in Guwahati airport.

[Translation]

Lok Adalats

5502. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Lok Adalats organised in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the number of cases disposed of therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to organise some more Lok Adalats in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House when received from the Uttar Pradesh Legal Aid & Advice Board, Lucknow.

(c) to (e) Lok Adalats which were heretofore voluntary afforts for resolution of disputes through persuasive and conciliatory methods have been accorded statutory base with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 with effect from 9th Novermber, 1995. The District Legal Services Authorities and Taluk Legal Services Committees etc. as envisaged under the Act are yet to be constituted though the provisions of Chapter III of the said Act have been extended to the State of Uttar Pradesh w.e.f. 5.7.1996. Pending constitution of the Authorities etc. as envisaged under the said Act, Lok Adalats in the State of Uttar Pradesh are being organised on the pattern as was in vogue prior to the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act.

[English]

Joint Venture of Ford Motor Company

5503. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ford Motor Company has submitted a proposal to the Government for the setting up of a new joint ventures company to be called Automotive Components India (P) Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof including equity participation of the ventrue; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. M/s. Ford Motor Company, USA submitted a proposal for setting up a joint venture company to be called Automotive Components India Pvt. Ltd. for manufacture of auto components in Tamil Nadu with a paid up capital of Rs. 16200 lakhs. M/s. Ford Motor Company of UsA would have an equity participation of 80% in the Joint Venture. The proposal has since been approved.

Handloom Industries

5504. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any remedial measures to protect the handloom industry in view of the increase in freight charges announced recently as the industry is already facing financial constraints due to decline in export;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) With a view to protect the handloom industry from the impact of freight charges, the Government has been implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme. Under the Scheme, State Handloom Development Corporations, State Apex/Regional Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies, Handloom Development Centres, Primary Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies, Registered Societies (NGOs),